

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, March 8, 1909

Beinn Bhreagh, NEAR Baddeck, Nova Scotia. March 8, 1909. Mrs. A. Graham Bell, 1331 Conn. Ave., Washington, D.C. Dear Mabel:

Miss McCurdy won't allow me to start on my correspondence without a few lines to you.

The great event just now was Douglas' flight in the Silver Dart from the ice near the laboratory wharf to Stony Island and back passing through Baddeck harbor both going and coming.

The buzzing of the engine was sufficient notification and I presume that nearly everyone in Baddeck witnessed the flight. I have been somewhat surprised at the promptness with which witnesses make their appearance on the ice, when we are going to make experiments, without any notification from us. I presume this arises from our always telephoning for Dr. McDonald or Dr. McIver when we are going to make experiments with a man in the machine. As the message goes through McKay's store the news that a flight is to be attempted spreads at once.

Douglas made five flights this morning with the special object of practicing landing. He wound up with his eight mile flight to Stony Island and back.

We have made satisfactory endurance tests of the engine and batteries and have notified the Aero Club of America that we are ready to try the second time for the Scientific American Trophy. I wonder whether Bert would not care to come 2 to witness the great event. I suppose it is out of the question to suggest David too. A.G.B.